

# The Inauguration---Its Real Significance

By THEODORE L. HOLMAN

**I**N keeping with the fine old custom long observed by the national government and many of the older states, Utah donned her stately robes last Monday and inducted the new administration into office in strictly formal fashion. For the first time in her career as a commonwealth she rose to the true dignity of statehood and marked the inauguration of her high officials with appropriate ceremony. It was a memorable occasion. The ceremony itself was truly American in its simplicity; its attendant solemnity visibly affected the thousands of witnesses and—appealing for the moment to their sober thoughts, must have conveyed a striking impression of the profound importance of their citizenship and the majesty of their government. Then too, the soldiery in attendance, the roar of the cannon in salute to the new governor, and the intermingling strains of martial music reverberating through the great corridor of the capitol—all lent a military atmosphere to the occasion that stirred the souls of the assembled citizens to the very depths of state pride and patriotic sentiment.

The program of the day was an innovation for Utah. Since statehood, three great citizens have been elevated to the governorship and five former administrations inaugurated, yet their assumption of office was marked with little pomp or heraldry. But whatever the cause for this omission, it reflects to the credit of the members of the new administration that they made the exercises attend-

ant to their inauguration as imposing and impressive as was consistent with the dignity of their high position. Now that the precedent has been established, it is to be hoped that each succeeding administration will give it full observance. There may be more stately occasions to come but it is doubtful if any future inauguration will encompass such extraordinary events as this one.

When Simon Bamberger assumed the office of governor he established

a precedent that should glorify the state through all the years to come. By that one act political emancipation came to Utah. It marked the advent of a new order of things in the conduct of civil affairs within the state. It conveyed the precious promise that the old order had passed away; that the unwritten law had been annulled and that henceforth in this state any citizen, irrespective of class or creed, may aspire to and

attain the highest office within the gift of the people, provided he deserves the confidence and can command the respect of his fellow

citizens. The new governor personifies the new point of view in Utah—he typifies its transformed citizenship, and when the scepter of civil government passed into his hands religious intolerance tumbled from its throne.

This is no idle speculation. The dawn of the new day has come. The spirit of the New Utah found full expression for the first time in this great event. You could feel it on every side. Men and women of every creed and condition mingled cordially together and were happy beyond measure. Even the retiring state officials caught the spirit of the occasion. Though of an opposite political faith, they set aside their partisanship for the moment and stood shoulder to shoulder with those of the new regime. It was, indeed, a wonderful day for Utah—it seemed as though the dream of generations had suddenly ripened into realization.

The oath of office was administered at the portal of the supreme

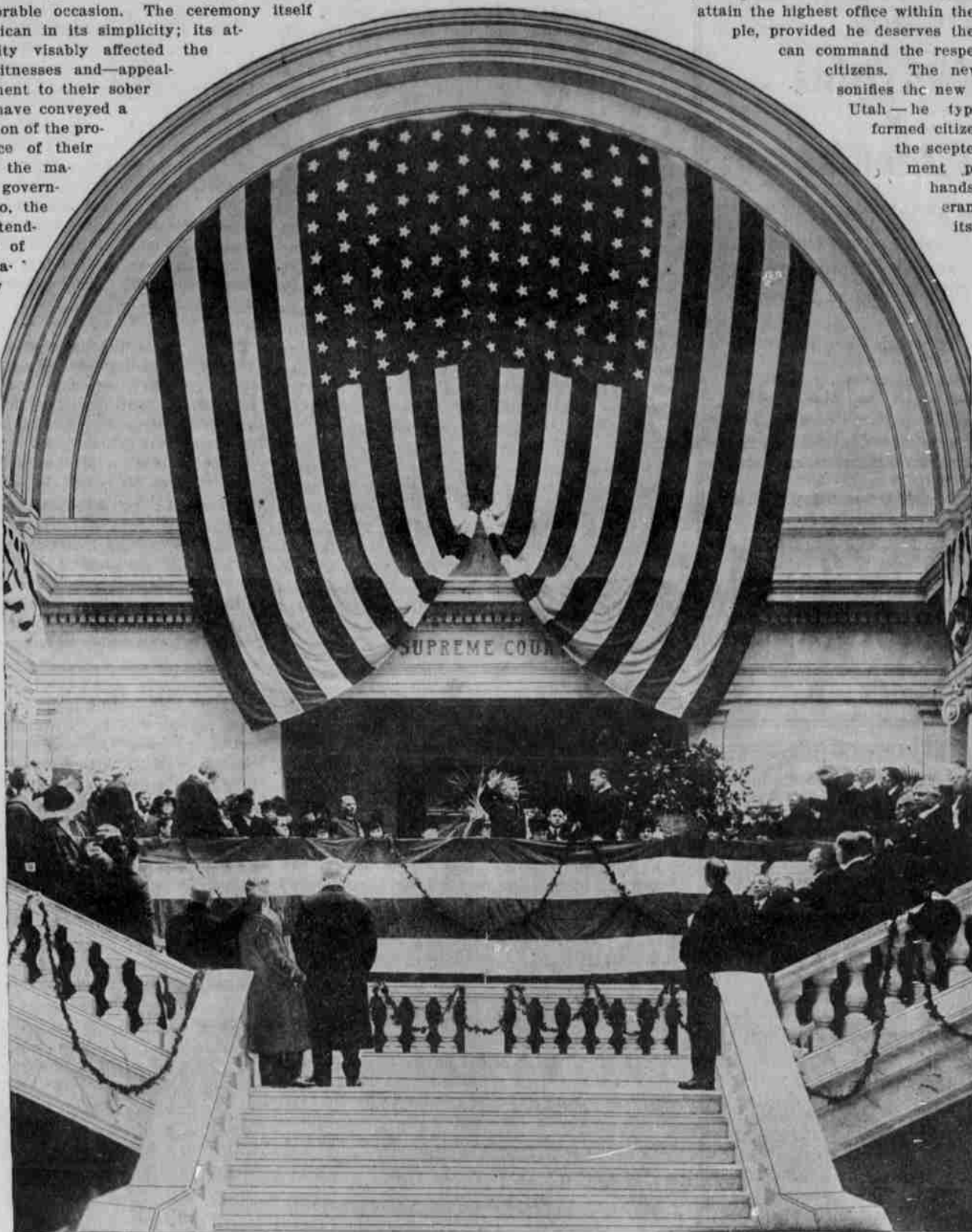


Photo by Hansen-Schramm-Johnson Company

CHIEF JUSTICE STRAUP (RIGHT) ADMINISTERING THE OATH OF OFFICE TO GOVERNOR BAMBERGER (LEFT.)

court chamber. As thousands of Utah's best citizens stood for the first time upon common ground, covered by the great dome of the capitol of their commonwealth and directly facing their high temple of justice, it was a real inspiration to behold the manifest spirit of an exalted citizenship beaming from their upturned faces as they received this solemn pledge: "I shall strive to be governor of the state of Utah, not governor of any religious, social, racial or industrial faction, but governor of a united people."